



**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY**  
**MIKE STRAIN DVM**  
**COMMISSIONER**



**BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION COMMISSION MEETING**

September 3, 2009

Scott Research & Extension Education Center  
212 Macon Ridge Rd.  
Winnsboro, LA 71295

**Minutes**

**Agricultural &  
Environmental  
Sciences**

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Services**

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Services**

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& Finance**

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**Marketing**

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**Soil & Water  
Conservation**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Logan at 10:05 A.M.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called by Eva Wales.

Members present: Commissioner Strain, Dr. Roger Leonard, Danny Logan, Jack Dailey and Travis Walker.

Members absent: George Lacour, Boyd Holley and Dan Turner

Others present: LDAF employees Todd Parker, Marc Bordelon, Craig Roussel, Marvin Montgomery, Jim Baldwin, Kurt Moreau, John Dumas, Nolan Adcock, Gene Edmondson, Vernon Thomas, Becky Wilkerson, Tom Winegeart, Martin Close, Jessie Smith, Ronald Williams, Tonya Barrington, Faye Aarons and Eva Wales; Margaret Price, USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA); Richard Myers, Cheminova Inc.; Jess Barr, Louisiana Cotton and Grain Association; and Brian Breaux, Louisiana Farm Bureau.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** Mr. Dailey made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2009 meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and passed unanimously.

**REVIEW OF FAILED ACRES**

Ed Patrick - Patrick Farms, East Carroll Parish - Planted 516.3 acres; failed 149.6 acres; cotton was mapped and trapped; no applications.

**Motion:** Mr. Dailey made a motion to waive the assessment on half of 89.2 acres because all cotton in this field was destroyed; some cotton was left for harvest in the other fields. Assessment was paid on failed cotton; refund \$267.60 to producer. This motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and passed unanimously.

Gregory Booth, Concordia Parish - Planted 266.9 acres; failed 266.9 acres; cotton was mapped and trapped early in the season; no applications.

**Motion:** Mr. Dailey made a motion to waive the assessment on half of the failed acres because cotton was completely destroyed. Assessment was not paid on failed cotton. Producer owes \$800.70; late fee will be waived if paid within 30 days. This motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and passed unanimously.

Jerry Book, Catahoula Parish - Planted 548.71 acres; failed 60 acres; cotton was mapped and trapped; no applications.

**Motion:** Mr. Dailey made a motion to waive the assessment on half of the failed acres because cotton was destroyed, with only a few scattered plants remaining. Assessment was paid on failed cotton; refund \$180 to producer. This motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and passed unanimously.

Dean Rogers – DRN Rogers Farms, Concordia Parish - Planted 376.9 acres; failed 100 acres; cotton was mapped and trapped; no applications.

**Motion:** Mr. Dailey made a motion to waive the assessment on half of the failed acres because cotton was destroyed, with only a few scattered plants remaining. Assessment was paid on failed cotton; refund \$300 to producer. This motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and passed unanimously.

Ruben Dautat, Avoyelles Parish - Planted 277.3 acres; failed 95.5 acres; cotton was mapped and trapped; no applications.

**Motion:** Mr. Dailey made a motion to waive the assessment on half of the failed acres because cotton was completely destroyed. Assessment was paid on failed cotton; refund \$286.50 to producer. This motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and passed unanimously.

### **REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER STRAIN**

Dr. Strain gave a brief financial update, reporting that the LDAF's budget was cut over \$8 million this fiscal year and we could possibly be looking at mid-year cuts again this year. He stated that we have submitted the department's report to the Commission on Streamlining State Government where every expense for every program must be justified. He reported that the Boll Weevil Program budget for this year is \$5.07 million, with \$3.6 million of this coming from state general funds. He added that we will ask for \$2.5 million state funds next year. After that, we will hopefully be in a containment phase and will be able to operate on assessments only. Dr. Strain noted the significant reduction in weevil numbers this year and commended program personnel for their hard work. He expressed appreciation to Commission members and others involved in helping to secure additional funding from the Legislature. He added that he has had several meetings with USDA Secretary Vilsack and his undersecretaries trying to get additional federal money.

Dr. Strain reported that he is working to establish an emergency response program for pest and parasite outbreaks. This long-term plan would make money instantly available if we had a boll weevil outbreak after we are in containment phase.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Bordelon reported that only one producer did not pay assessments for 2008. This was not collected through the lien process because the producer filed bankruptcy.

### **UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Mr. Bordelon gave a brief update on 2009 assessments as follows: 222,487 certified acres (including failed cotton); \$1.3 million collected to date; 11 liens in place totaling \$13,000.

Mr. Bordelon gave the following personnel report: the secretary at Oak Grove and the assistant manager at Jonesville took early retirement incentive in July; three FUS's (one each from Monroe, Winnsboro and Jonesville) transferred to another LDAF department. None of these were replaced. Field units were redistributed and remaining employees took on additional acres and responsibilities.

Mr. Bordelon reported that our employees are working diligently to isolate volunteer cotton plants in corn and soybean fields. Volunteer cotton plants are destroyed if possible. Traps are put out in areas where significant volunteer growth is not adjacent to cotton fields.

There was a discussion regarding cotton in Tangipahoa Parish. Mr. Bordelon stated that the cotton was certified and the FSA office supplied us with maps. Fields were mapped and trapped and the producer was sent a letter notifying him of the assessment due.

Mr. Bordelon called attention to trapping reports (copies on file) that include weevil counts by field numbers. He gave a brief update as follows: Jonesville – 48 weevils to date, nothing caught since the first week of August; Winnsboro – 31 weevils to date (five on the experiment station), several fields on twice-per-week spray

schedule; Monroe – 90 weevils to date, one weevil caught north of Interstate 20, aggressive spray schedule on two problem fields southwest of Mangham; Oak Grove – 27 weevils to date, aggressive spray schedule on problem field south of Rayville. He added that T traps are put out when a field is placed on a twice-per-week schedule (T trap captures are not included in the trapping reports). Our current protocol is twice-per-week applications at two weevils. Starting this week, the threshold will be lowered to one weevil; T traps will be monitored and this spray schedule continued as long as necessary.

Mr. Bordelon presented the following graphs comparing this year to previous years (copies on file):

*Cumulative Acres Sprayed 2007, 2008 & 2009* - He noted that even though we sprayed significantly less acres this year, we sprayed more pinhead square acres this year than in 2007.

*Trap Catch by Week (through 9/4) 2008 & 2009*

*LA Boll Weevil Reduction (through 9/4) 2008 & 2009* - (2008) 4,455; (2009) 218 – 95% reduction

Mr. Bordelon reported that, according to information provided by Ken Pierce with USDA, Texas will be trapping overwintering sides of old cotton fields. This has always been part of our protocol; it will be done in Texas now to help with the problem of volunteer cotton. Mr. Bordelon concluded by stating that, as a cost-saving measure, the newsletter is now on our website and can be sent to producers via email.

### **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) REPORT**

Dr. Leonard submitted the following:

- 1) The TAC will continue to work with the Director on an aggressive protocol for next year.
- 2) Expressed appreciation to the LDAF for exemption allowing use of ULV Malathion for plant bugs.
- 3) Noted the increase in volunteer cotton due in part to herbicide programs that replaced Atrazine.

Mr. Bordelon stated that Texas has passed legislation to assess producers for volunteer cotton.

### **FARM BUREAU OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Breaux reported that he contacted seven producers with the following response:

- 1) All respondents were positive and noted the significant reduction in weevils.
- 2) Two respondents stated that this was the best run year of the program, emphasizing the better level of communication with program employees.
- 3) Several noted the fewer number of employees, but felt the program was still being run well.

### **USDA REPORT**

Ms. Price reported that the FSA will continue to provide the BWEP with cotton acreage information; however, this is the last year that FSA offices will collect assessments. She gave a brief update on training for upcoming disaster programs, stating that national training will begin the end of the month. She reported that final 2008 countercyclical payments and 2009 direct payments will begin in October. Information will be entered in county offices; however, payments will come from the national office in Kansas City.

There was a discussion regarding the change in assessment collection. Mr. Roussel stated that this has been developing on a national level over the past several years. He added that we received an exemption this year; however, beginning next year, we will invoice producers directly. Mr. Bordelon stated that FSA will send data on July 15, with follow-up transfer on August 1 and final transfer on September 1. Mr. Parker stated that regulations must be changed to allow the department to collect assessments.

**Motion:** Mr. Dailey made a motion directing the LDAF to make any necessary changes to the regulations so the LDAF can invoice and collect BWEP assessments. This motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and passed unanimously.

There was no additional business.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 P.M.